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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,589	03/20/2006	Yasuharu Yamauchi	287501US8PCT	2738
22850 7590 04/14/2010 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
CHEN, SHIN HON				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2431				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/572,589

Applicant(s)

YAMAUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

SHIN-HON CHEN

Art Unit

2431

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2010.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/GS/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-28 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kragt et al. U.S. Pub. No. 20070100755 (hereinafter Kragt).
4. As per claim 1, Kragt discloses a content reproduction apparatus comprising: a storage section used for storing a source-ID list showing a source of every content allowed to be reproduced (Kragt: [0019]: indicate whether contents are protected) and method identification information each used for identifying a method of controlling reproduction of each content (Kragt: [0019]: determine which digital rights management system is employed); a reproduction control method determination section for determining a method of controlling reproduction of a content on the basis of said method identification information (Kragt: [0019] lines 12-19: determine access controlling method); a first reproducibility determination section, which is used for producing a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible by determining whether or not a source ID attached to said content is a source ID included in said source-ID list in case said reproduction control method determination section

determines that said method to control reproduction of a content is a first reproduction control method (Kragt: [0019]: determine if the content item is protected based on the digital rights management; [0022]); a second reproducibility determination section, which is used for producing a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible on the basis of usage rule information described in a license issued to said content in case said reproduction control method determination section determines that said method to control reproduction of a content is a second reproduction control method (Kragt: [0023]: access rights associated with the user to access content items); and a reproduction execution section for reproducing a content with its source ID determined by said determination result produced by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be a reproducible content (Kragt: [0031]).

Kragt does not explicitly disclose storing a recorder ID number. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to store system ID/recorder ID into the system for communication and access control purposes as well known in the art.

5. As per claim 2, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses wherein said source ID includes a group ID generated as an ID unique to each of users registered in a group management server (Kragt: [0029]).

6. As per claim 3, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 2. Kragt further discloses wherein a group ID for a user making a request for transmission of a

content from a content distribution server to a content-processing apparatus is added to said transmitted content (Kragt: [0028]).

7. As per claim 4, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses wherein said source ID includes a recorder ID generated as an ID unique to each content-processing apparatus having a ripping section for ripping out a content from a recording medium (Kragt: [0017] and [0028]).

8. As per claim 5, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 4. Kragt further discloses wherein said content-processing apparatus having a ripping section attaches said recorder ID assigned to said content-processing apparatus itself to said content ripped off from said recording medium (Kragt: [0028]).

9. As per claim 6, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses wherein said usage rule information includes limit information of the number of times said content can be reproduced (Kragt: [0029]).

10. As per claim 7, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses wherein said usage rule information includes a deadline of a period in which said content can be reproduced (Kragt: [0029]).

11. As per claim 8, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a communication section for setting a connection to a content-processing apparatus and communicating with said content-processing apparatus, wherein said content-processing apparatus is capable of updating said method identification information (Kragt: [0030]).

12. As per claim 9, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a display section for displaying the title information of one or more contents held in said content reproduction apparatus, wherein said display section displays title information of contents determined by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said title information of said reproducible contents can be distinguished from said title information of said irreproducible contents (Kragt: [0027]-[0029]).

13. As per claim 10, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9. Kragt further discloses said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a content select section for selecting at least one from those displayed on said display section as title information of reproducible contents, wherein: said storage section is used for storing content management information associating the title information of every content with location information at which said content has been stored; and said reproduction execution section reads out a content

indicated by title information, which is selected by said content select section, on the basis of said content management information and reproduces said content (Kragt: [0031]).

14. As per claim 11, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9. Kragt further discloses wherein said display section displays title list information of contents determined to be reproducible contents with a color and/or a degree of luminance, which are different from those for irreproducible-content title information also shown on said title list as contents determined to be irreproducible contents (Kragt: [0031]).

15. As per claim 12, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9. Kragt further discloses wherein said display section displays title list information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said reproducible contents and said irreproducible contents can be distinguished from each other (Kragt: [0022]-[0024] and [0031]).

16. As per claim 13, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9. Kragt further discloses wherein said display section displays a title list adding different icons to title information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents, respectively (Kragt: [0022]).

17. As per claim 14, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a communication

section for setting a connection to a content-processing apparatus and communicating with said content-processing apparatus, wherein said resource-ID list stored in said storage section is updated on the basis of a source-ID list owned by said content-processing apparatus when said content reproduction apparatus is registered through said content-processing apparatus in the same apparatus group in a group management server as said content-processing apparatus (Kragt: [0030]).

18. As per claim 15, Kragt discloses the content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1. Kragt further discloses said content reproduction apparatus being a portable content reproduction apparatus having a hard-disk drive (Kragt: [0016]).

19. As per claim 16-28, claims 16-28 encompass the same scope as claims 1-15. Therefore, claims 16-28 are rejected based on the same reason set forth above in rejecting claims 1-15.

Response to Arguments

20. Applicant's arguments filed 3/12/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding applicant's remarks, applicant mainly argues that the prior art of record does not explicitly disclose "method of controlling reproduction" and "a source-ID list showing a source ID of every content allowed to be reproduced and a recorder ID number." However, the examiner disagrees. The digital rights management is a method of controlling reproduction of digital contents. Kragt discloses different access control methods for different digital contents

and information pertinent to the access control method is provided (Kragt: [0019]-[0022]). Furthermore, identifiers of accessible contents are displayed to the user (Kragt: [0019]). Lastly, the recorder ID as currently introduced does not distinguish present application from prior art because the claims do not rely on the piece of information to control reproduction. Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive in light of above explanation.

Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHIN-HON CHEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Shin-Hon Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2431

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